MAY/JUNE 1976

Sep 76

CALCOMP NEWSLETTER

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CALCOMP

CALCOMP AUTOMATED TAPE LIBRARY AT ARCO LOS ANGELES

CalComp's Automated Tape Library (ATL) eliminates 20 man-hours of job staging time while mounting and retrieving some 1,000 tapes per day at Atlantic Richfield Company's Los Angeles Data Center.

Computer operations costs have been reduced approximately $5,000 per month, despite expansion of the data center's file accounting system from 8,500 reels of tape two years ago to 11,000 reels today.

Also credited to the ATL are the "intangible savings" such as elimination of environmental contamination and security against scattered, missing or misplaced reels.

The ATL system is used in Los Angeles to process ARCO's marketing, manufacturing, and financial applications systems, in addition to systems maintenance and development.

Efficiency improvement at the data center is attributed to ATL in three major operations: instant on-line update, off-site "disaster" storage, and job entry.

Instant on-line update

Operating on-line with an IBM 370/168 computer, the CalComp ATL permits instantaneous updating as a file is created.

Previous manual entry, subject to human error, not only was less accurate, but it also reflected file status at only one particular time, say 8:00 o'clock in the morning. Instant on-line update keeps file status up to the minute and available for reference via CRT in the scheduling area . . . any minute of the day.

Offsite "disaster recovery" storage

Of the 11,000 tapes constituting ARCO's file accounting system, approximately 10% of the tapes are kept in an off-site disaster recovery storage location, established to facilitate processing recovery in the event of a disaster. Approximately 160 tapes are rotated to and from this site daily under the control of ATL software.

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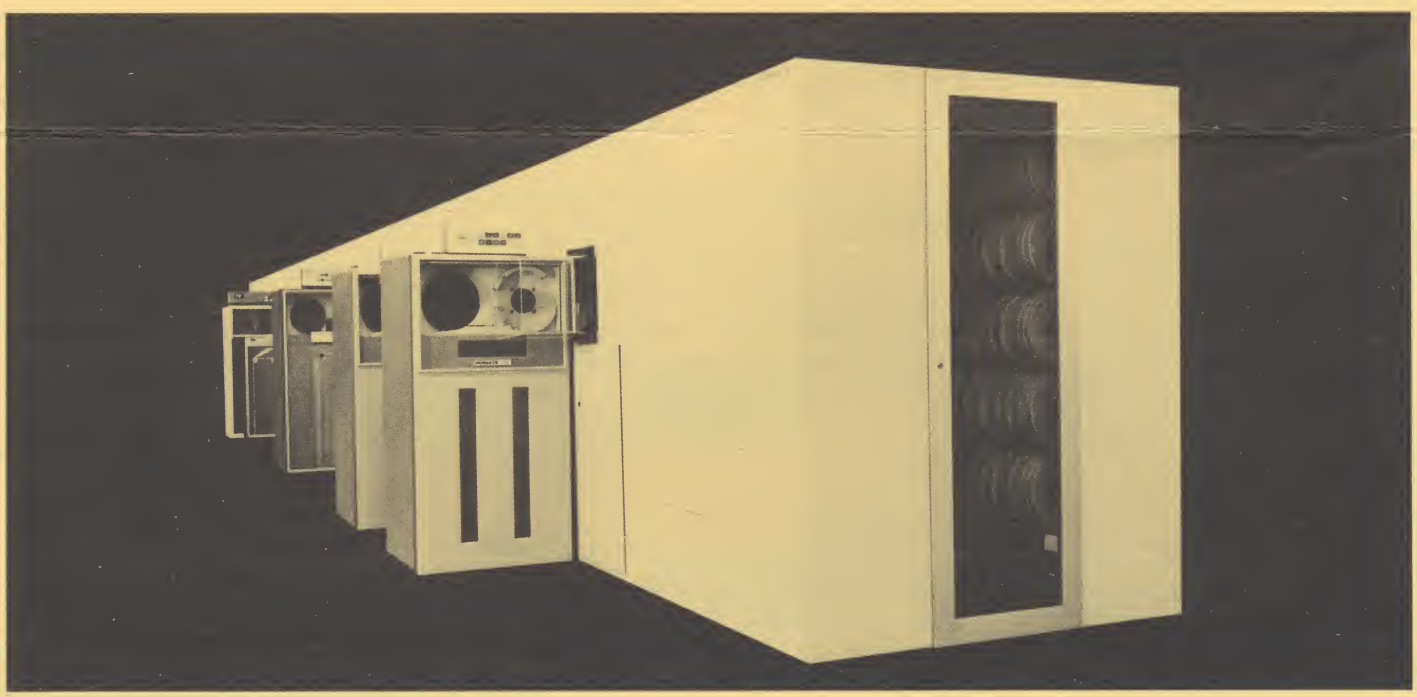


Exterior of a CalComp Automated Tape Library

CALCOMP TO LEASE DATA SET OPTIMIZER SOFTWARE PACKAGE

CalComp has signed an agreement to lease to CalComp customers a specially modified version of the Data Set Optimizer (DSO) software package developed by Boole and Babbage, Sunnyvale, California.

The CalComp DSO package is designed to improve throughput in high-volume data processing installations which have CalComp 1030 and CalComp 1035 Disk Storage Facilities. The package increases the user's control over disk volume and data organization and enables him to accurately measure how frequently particular data sets are used.

The CalComp DSO generates a series of reports to help the user to reorganize data on his CalComp disk storage devices more efficiently. For example, data provided by the CalComp DSO reports include location of data sets, the volume of each data set, and recommendations on how to regroup these data sets in the most efficient manner.

This efficient regrouping reduces disk drive head movement by as much as 20 to 40 percent and minimizes head seek time so that job throughput is significantly improved.

CALCOMP INTRODUCES REPLACEMENT FOR IBM 3333 DISK STORAGE AND CONTROL MODULE AT NCC

CalComp introduced a direct replacement for IBM 3333 disk storage and control modules at the National Computer Conference in New York's Coliseum, June 7-10. The CalComp 1033 disk storage facility (DSF) provides low cost, high capacity, high performance direct access storage for users of IBM 370/135 to 168 computers and above and 360/195 computers.

The CalComp 1033 DSF is software and hardware transparent to all standard 370 and 360 operating systems. The CalComp 1033 can directly interface with the IBM 3830-2 storage control module, the integrated file adapter (IFA), or integrated storage control (ISC) module.

The 1033 consists of a control storage adapter and from two to eight spindles of CalComp single density or double density disk storage units. The CalComp 1033 can be arranged in a variety of configurations. Maximum configuration includes four control storage adapters and 32 200 megabyte spindles. This configuration would store 6.4 billion bytes.

The 1033 disk storage facility's basic configuration consists of a 1033 control storage adapter, one CalComp disk drive containing two storage spindles, and one disk drive attachment (DDA). One DDA must be obtained for each additional two spindles of storage.

Each 1033 control storage adapter can control up to eight spindles. The spindles can be mixed densities or capacities as long as spindles within the same cabinet are of the same type.

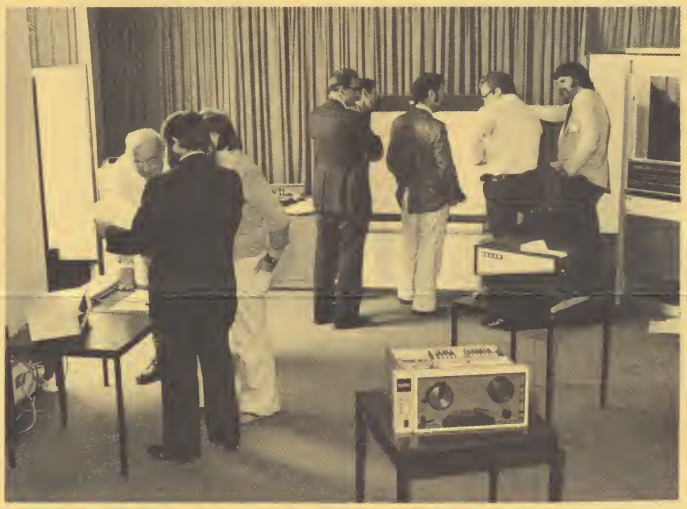
The 1033's string switch option allows access to the control storage adapter via two separate data paths. An additional option available with the CalComp 1033 disk storage facility is the CalComp Data Set Optimizer (DSO).

DSO is a software package which assists CalComp customers in maximizing the efficient location of data sets. For a more complete description of DSO, please see the article above.

CALCOMP 960 VERTICAL PLOTTER EXHIBITED IN AUSTRALIA, JAPAN

The CalComp 960 vertical plotter was exhibited at trade shows in Australia and Japan recently. The 960 was featured in a private exhibition at the Australian U.S. Trade Centre which was attended by several hundred people. The plotter was also shown at the Computer Centre of the Australian National University in Canberra and at the CETIA exhibition in Melbourne. Attendance at the CETIA show exceeded 7,000.

In Japan, the CalComp 960 attracted considerable attention at the Computer '76 show held in Tokyo. CalComp's graphics distributor in Japan, YBM, showed the 960, while the company's memory products distributor in Japan, CJK, showed the CalComp Trident OEM disk drive.



Interested prospects at the Australian U.S. Trade Centre show examine the CalComp 960.

Attendees at the Computer '76 show in Tokyo watch the 960 in action, while others consider the Trident disk drive on display.

WEST YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL USES CALCOMP 7000 DRAFTING SYSTEM

The county authority of West Yorkshire in the United Kingdom has installed an offline CalComp 7000 flatbed system at its offices in Wakefield. The CalComp system can produce rapidly a high volume throughput of design work and is fully compatible with the IBM 370 and the highway design programs MOSS & BIPS, used by the county.

The three main departments whose applications directly concern the CalComp system are those of planning, transportation, and engineering. The 7000 system is used to produce large scale town plans, detailed survey plots, highway landscape, construction and perspective drawings for photomontage, plus motorway and highway diagrams in long, plan and elevation sections, traffic and transportation flow charts. Photomontage is a technique which superimposes drawings of new developments or constructions on old or existing views of a city or landscape. For all applications, standard preprinted forms are used.

The charts produced by the 7000 system enable the transportation department to use computerized modeling techniques to examine traffic flow at selected road intersections. They then try alternative schemes and analyse the results. The scheme which results in the best traffic flow conditions according to the model can be immediately and effectively implemented on the actual location.

The engineering department is concerned with detailed structural and stress analysis diagrams. The design work includes bridges, buildings and mineworks as well as ecological landscaping. The latter is mainly concerned with waste disposal, natural resources and the effect of a given scheme on the appearance of the countryside. Photomontage techniques are again used in conjunction with perspective views of proposed construction plans.

Future applications of the 7000 system will come primarily from the management side of the planning department. Management information will be the key factor, involving maps to show the location of public services such as police, fire and ambulance service locations and routes, road maintenance charts and monitoring of local authority services.

Gallery of Fine Art

This contribution was submitted by COMPUTRA, Inc., of Muncie, Indiana. It was created by Kathy Owens, senior systems programmer at Ball State University in Indiana. The work was drawn on a CalComp 30-inch drum plotter.

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Software for ATL tape rotation commands was designed by CalComp in accordance with predetermined prerequisites for maintaining a library of original tapes and backup duplicates for use in the event of fire, earthquake, and other catastrophies.

ATL knows the slot assignment of every tape and can automatically retrieve any tape stored in the tape library and mount it on one of the system's 18 tape drives. Location of tapes outside of the ATL are identified and controlled for manual retrieval.

Job entry

Communication and paperwork bottlenecks have been removed from remote job operations. The ATL has eliminated job staging — tape set-up time — formerly requiring 15 minutes per job.

In many cases, a remote job can now be entered and completed in less time than was formerly required to stage it. Approximately 3,000 remote jobs requiring tapes are processed monthly.

In-house job entry set-up time has also been reduced with the ATL system by reducing manual tape retrieval and filing operations by librarian personnel and associated manual record keeping.